



**A MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
PRESIDENT RICHARD C. ATKINSON**

TO ALL LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY EMPLOYEES

May 15, 2003

I am pleased to inform you that today I announced to the Board of Regents my intention to appoint George P. "Pete" Nanos the permanent director of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

When I first named Pete the interim director on January 6, I indicated that I would eventually conduct a national search for a new permanent director. But it has become clear to me over the last several months that Pete's superb performance and extraordinary leadership make such a process unnecessary.

Under the most trying of circumstances, Pete has provided bold, innovative, and compassionate leadership to the hard-working men and women of the Los Alamos laboratory. I can think of no person better suited to lead this critical national security laboratory through the coming period and to preserve its standards of excellence.

I have been extraordinarily pleased by Pete's many accomplishments in such a short appoint of time. As all of you can attest, he has created a new atmosphere of openness in communications and sound management accountability processes, while at the same time refocusing the Laboratory business practices and on the science of its weapons program.

I wish to thank all of you for providing Pete your strongest possible support over these last few difficult months. You have risen to the challenges confronting us while also continuing the vital work of the Laboratory on behalf of the nation's security. We at the University of California are extremely proud of what you, under Pete's leadership, have accomplished and know that it will be sustained well into the future.

The Board of Regents still must approve my recommendation to name Pete the permanent director, which they will do at the earliest possible date. But their enthusiastic expressions of support for Pete today clearly indicate they share my confidence in his future leadership.

#